

REMARKS

The most recent Office Action mailed July 24, 2007 ("*Office Action*") considered claims 1 and 40-86, of which claims 1, 40, 64, and 77 are independent. The *Office Action* rejected claims 1, 40-42, 47-48, 64, 66, 68-70, and 76-83 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,105,647 to Maher ("*Maher*"). The *Office Action* also rejected claims 1 and 40-86 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2 as being indefinite in view of the phrases "such as" or "preferably." In addition, the *Office Action* rejected claim 65 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 1, indicating that the claimed subject matter was not adequately described in the specification.

With this paper, Applicant herewith cancels claims 48-49, and 66-67 without prejudice, and further amends claims 1, 40, 47, 51, 56, 59-61, 64, 77, and 81-85. Applicant further herewith adds new claims 87-90. Accordingly, claims 1, 40-47, 50-65, and 68-90 are now presently pending, of which claims 1, 40, 64, 77, and 89-90 are independent.

In each of the amended claims, Applicant has amended the objected-to wording where applicable or otherwise identified based on the wording pointed out in the *Office Action*. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the § 112 ¶ 2 rejections of record are now moot.

In addition, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 47, which the *Office Action* indicated contains allowable subject matter. Although claim 47 originally depends from claim 40, original claim 1 contains the same limitations as claim 40, albeit with different wording. Accordingly, inasmuch as the combination of claims 40 and 47 were indicated as being allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is now allowable over the art of record for the same reasons.

Applicant has also amended claim 40 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 48-49, which the *Office Action* indicated contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 40 is now allowable over the art of record.

Along similar lines, Applicant has amended independent claim 64 to include the limitations of dependent claims 66-67, which the *Office Action* indicated contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 64 is now allowable over the art of record.

In addition, Applicant has amended independent claim 77 to include the subject matter of dependent claims 48-49 deemed by the *Office Action* to be allowable in the context of independent method claim 40. Applicant respectfully submits that the art of record fails to teach, disclose, or otherwise suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 77 as presently constituted. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 77 is now allowable over the art of record.

Furthermore, Applicant has added new dependent claims 87 and 88, which recite subject matter removed in the present amendments to claims 40 and 77, respectively, in order to satisfy wording objections with respect to the term "preferably." As new claims 87-88 respectively depend from allowable claims 40 or 77, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 87-88 is allowable.

Still further, Applicant has added new dependent claim 89, which combines the limitations of independent claim 40 and otherwise allowable claim 57. Similarly, Applicant has added new claim 90 which combines the limitations of independent claim 77 and otherwise allowable claims 85-86. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that new independent claims 88-89 are allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for prompt allowance. In the event that the Examiner finds impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

/Michael J. Frodsham/

Michael J. Frodsham
Registration No. 48,699
Attorney for Applicant
Customer No. 022913
Telephone: (801) 533-9800

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